



**EDUCATION and WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CABINET  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD**

**Andy Beshear**  
Governor

500 Mero Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Phone 502-564-4440  
Frankfort, KY 40601

**Mary Pat Regan**  
Deputy Secretary

**Jacqueline Coleman**  
Lieutenant Governor  
and Secretary

**Sally Shepherd**  
Deputy Executive  
Director

**Governor's Office of Early Childhood  
COVID-19 Statement  
3.13.2020**

On March 6, Governor Beshear declared a public health emergency because of the COVID-19 virus. The following are directives from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services' Office of Child Care applicable to the public health emergency:

- We have asked the national Office of Child Care for an amendment to our state plan to allow full Child Care Assistance Program funding for CCAP eligible families if the child attends one day during the course of the month. This request would last through the State of Emergency. We have also asked for an amendment for the Division of Child Care to cover the cost of co-payments during the State of Emergency to ensure financial security.
- We are advocating for Certified and Licensed Child Care Programs to remain open (since that structure is already in place); however, we are going to ask all families that have the ability to keep their children home to do so. We particularly need to secure childcare for essential personnel like medical staff, emergency responders, utility workers, and workers in the food distribution service.
- If a childcare program has a diagnosed case of COVID-19 of a child or a staff member, the program needs to be closed for three business days for a thorough cleaning and sanitation of the center.
- There needs to be health screenings (including temperature checks, etc.) of staff members and children throughout the day for the childcare programs that are in operation. Anyone demonstrating symptoms must be sent home.
- Family activities and field trips need to be suspended during the State of Emergency.
- All visitors in and out of childcare programs need to be significantly reduced during the day (ex. volunteers, program tours, vendors, student observations, etc.). The programs shall allow visits from medical and therapeutic providers, utility management, child and adult protective services, military, fire department, and police services, and state inspectors such as the fire marshal, health department, and Division of Regulated Child Care surveyors.
- Programs that provide meals to enrolled students need to serve meals to enrolled students that are not attending during the day. Centers and families need to arrange a location on the premises where the family can pick-up the meal and take it to their home. The family must ask for this service so that centers know how much food to prepare. Centers that provide diapers to infants and toddlers and formula to infants shall still provide these necessities.

For additional information from the Center for Disease Control, please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>

For the latest information, please visit: [KYCOVID19.KY.GOV](https://www.ky.gov/covid19) or call 800-722-5725.

See below for health tips from the Kentucky Public Health Department.



## COVID-19 HEALTH TIPS

# When To Seek Care

To ensure the sickest people receive care, help minimize the spread of infection and maintain resources, please follow the guidelines below when considering whether to seek medical care.

### Stay home

If you are worried-well, **please stay home.**

Going to a hospital or doctor's office adds to a higher concentration of people and further overwhelms medical staff.

### Call for advice

If you are **ill, but would not have sought care** if not for COVID-19, do not seek care at an ER, hospital or doctor's office.

If you want advice, **call the Kentucky state hotline (1-800-722-5725) or call your local healthcare provider.**

### Seek care

If you are **sick and feel you have an emergency**, please call your doctor or **seek medical care.**

**Hospitals and medical staff across the commonwealth stand ready to serve you.**

Please visit [kycovid19.ky.gov](https://kycovid19.ky.gov) for the latest updates on COVID-19 in Kentucky or call the Kentucky state hotline at **1-800-722-5725**



**KENTUCKY**  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
EARLY CHILDHOOD  
READY TO GROW. READY TO LEARN. READY TO SUCCEED